

#### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as shown in the following Listing of Claims.

1. **(currently amended)** A parking brake actuator for a motor vehicle, said parking brake actuator comprising, in combination:

a fixed support comprised of plastic;

a lever pivotably connected to said support for movement between brake-releasing and brake-engaging positions;

a locking mechanism adapted to releasably maintain said lever in said brake-engaging position;

an electrical switch ~~having a blade~~ operable to indicate when said lever is out of said brake-releasing position;

wherein said switch includes a blade is comprised of an electrically conductive material and directly secured to said fixed support;

wherein said switch includes a terminal comprised of an electrically conductive material and directly secured to said fixed support;

wherein said switch is located near a mounting hole formed in the fixed support which receives a fastener to secure the fixed support to the motor vehicle; and

wherein said switch extends to the mounting hole to contact the fastener in the mounting hole to connect the switch to ground; and

wherein ~~operation of the electrical switch opens~~ said blade is spaced-apart from said terminal to open an electric circuit including the fastener when the lever is in the brake-releasing position and ~~closes~~ wherein said blade is in direct electrical contact with said terminal to close the electric circuit including the fastener when the lever is in the brake-engaging position.

2. **(original)** The parking brake actuator according to claim 1, wherein said fixed support forms a unitary mounting bracket for securing said switch blade to the fixed support.

3. **(original)** The parking brake actuator according to claim 2, wherein said unitary mounting bracket forms a slot for receiving a portion of said switch blade to secure the switch blade to the fixed support.

4. **(currently amended)** The parking brake actuator according to claim 2, wherein said fixed support and said unitary mounting bracket are molded of plastic as a one-piece component.

5. **(currently amended)** The parking brake actuator according to claim 2, wherein said mounting bracket secures a said terminal of the switch to the fixed support.

6. **(original)** The parking brake actuator according to claim 5, wherein said unitary mounting bracket forms a slot for receiving a portion of said terminal to secure the terminal to the fixed support.

7. **(currently amended)** The parking brake actuator according to claim 1, wherein said switch ~~includes a terminal secured directly to said fixed support~~ blade extends to the mounting hole to contact the fastener.

8. **(cancelled)**

9. **(cancelled)**

10. **(currently amended)** The parking brake actuator according to claim 1, wherein said switch is blade and said switch terminal are each secured to said fixed support without mechanical fasteners.

11. **(currently amended)** A parking brake actuator for a motor vehicle, said parking brake actuator comprising, in combination:

- a fixed support;
- a lever pivotably connected to said support for movement between brake-releasing and brake-engaging positions;
- a locking mechanism adapted to releasably maintain said lever in said brake-engaging position;
- an electrical switch ~~having a blade~~ operable to indicate when said lever is out of said brake-releasing position;
  - wherein said switch includes a blade comprised of an electrically conductive material;
  - wherein said switch includes a terminal comprised of an electrically conductive material;
  - wherein said fixed support forms a unitary mounting bracket ~~for~~ securing said switch blade and said switch terminal to the fixed support;

wherein said fixed support and said unitary mounting bracket are molded of plastic as a one-piece component;

wherein said switch is located near a mounting hole formed in the fixed support which receives a fastener to secure the fixed support to the motor vehicle;

wherein said switch extends to the mounting hole to contact the fastener in the mounting hole to connect the switch to ground; and

wherein ~~operation of the electrical switch opens~~ said blade is spaced-apart from said terminal to open an electric circuit including the fastener when the lever is in the brake-releasing position and ~~closes~~ wherein said blade is in direct electrical contact with said terminal to close the electric circuit including the fastener when the lever is in the brake-engaging position.

12. **(original)** The parking brake actuator according to claim 11, wherein said unitary mounting bracket forms a slot for receiving a portion of said switch blade to secure the switch blade to the fixed support.

13. **(currently amended)** The parking brake actuator according to claim 11, wherein said ~~mounting bracket secures a terminal of the switch to the fixed support~~ switch blade extends to the mounting hole to contact the fastener.

14. **(currently amended)** The parking brake actuator according to claim ~~43~~ 11, wherein said unitary mounting bracket forms a slot for receiving a portion of said terminal to secure the terminal to the fixed support.

15. **(cancelled)**

16. **(cancelled)**

17. **(currently amended)** The parking brake actuator according to claim 11, wherein said switch is blade and said switch terminal are each secured to said fixed support without mechanical fasteners.

18. **(currently amended)** A parking brake actuator for a motor vehicle, said parking brake actuator comprising, in combination:

a fixed support comprised of plastic;

a lever pivotably connected to said support for movement between brake-releasing and brake-engaging positions;

a locking mechanism adapted to releasably maintain said lever in said brake-engaging position;

an electrical switch operable to indicate when said lever is out of said brake-releasing position;

wherein said switch includes a blade comprised of an electrically conductive material;

wherein said switch includes a terminal comprised of an electrically conductive material;

wherein said switch is located near a mounting hole formed in the fixed support which receives a fastener to secure the fixed support to the motor vehicle;

wherein said switch blade extends to the mounting hole to contact the fastener in the mounting hole to connect the switch to ground; and

wherein ~~operation of the electrical switch opens~~ said blade is spaced-apart from said terminal to open an electric circuit including the fastener when the lever is in the brake-releasing position and ~~closes~~ wherein said blade is in direct electrical contact with said terminal to close the electric circuit including the fastener when the lever is in the brake-engaging position.

19. **(currently amended)** The parking brake actuator according to claim 18, wherein said fixed support forms a unitary mounting bracket for securing a said switch blade of the switch to the fixed support and wherein said fixed support and said unitary mounting bracket are molded of plastic.

20. **(currently amended)** The parking brake actuator according to claim 18, wherein said switch is blade and said switch terminal are each secured to said fixed support without mechanical fasteners.